

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /068 W

----- 128065

R 040410Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7411

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2826

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP PFOR

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST, INDIAN, BURMESE DIPLOMATS MAKE CONGRATULATORY
CALLS ON LPDR NATIONAL DAY

1. LAO PARTY VERNACULAR PAPER "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE"
DECEMBER 2 REPORTED THAT ON DECEMBER 1 PRESIDENT
SOUPHANOUVONG AND FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE
SIPRASEUTH HAD RECEIVED AMBASSADORS FROM "SOCIALIST
AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES" OFFERING CONGRATULATIONS ON
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF LPDR.

2. FIRST GROUP OF AMBASSADORS TO MAKE CALLS CONSISTED
OF SOVIET, EAST GERMAN, HUNGARIAN, BULGARIAN, CUBAN,
AND MONGOLIAN. NEXT CAME NORTH KOREAN, FOLLOWED BY
KAMPUCHEAN. VIETNAMESE CHARGE WAS NEXT, THEN INDIAN,
THEN CHINESE, AND BURMESE LAST.

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3. WE HAVE CHECKED WITH FRENCH, WEST GERMAN AND IMZGKESIAN CHIEFS OF MISSION, WHO LIKE MYSELF WERE NOT INVITED TO MAKE CALLS. I PRESUME NO OTHERS WERE FROM COUNTRIES GROUPED TOGETHER AS "WESTERN AND PACIFIC NATIONS".

4. COMMENT: ORDER OF CALLS IS INTERESTING. SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE AS DEAN COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED TO BE FIRST, AND NO GREAT SURPRISE THAT HE ACCOMPANIED DIPLOMATS FROM SOVIET SATELLITES. VIETNAMESE MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED UP IF AMBASSADOR RATHER THAN CHARGE PRESENT. PUTTING CHINESE AFTER ALL OTHER COMMUNIST AMBASSADORS, VIETNAMESE CHARGE, AND EVEN INDIAN AMBASSADOR INDICATES SOVIETS MAY HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH ARRANGING ORDER OF CALLS, PARTICULARLY SINCE CHINSE IS THIRD SENIOR ON PROTOCOL LIST AFTER SOVIET AND INDIAN.

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